

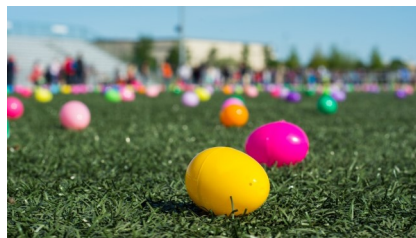
FAMILY MINISTRY



All Church Events and Activities Cancelled through March 31st

Children's Easter Celebration POSTPONED

The Children's Easter Celebration scheduled for **Saturday, April 4** has been POSTPONED. Stay tuned this spring for possible updates.



Fish Banks ON HOLD

Traditionally during Lent, fish-shaped boxes are distributed to children in Sunday School. On Palm Sunday, it is the tradition at FPC to receive the [One Great Hour of Sharing](#) offering (the fish boxes). A gift to One Great Hour of Sharing allows us to share God's love with our neighbors in need around the world. As we are not meeting for Sunday School, this offering is currently ON HOLD.

We pray for the world, our health officials, and local, state and national entities impacted by the [Coronavirus](#) pandemic.

Sermon Series Memory Verse

"Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it." - Mark 8: 34, 35

For Families and Children:
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For Families and Youth:
Dave Fauvell
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A Letter from Ms. Holly

Dear Parents,
Although we cannot meet at church we can still do something fun together with our families. During these next couple of weeks while we navigate this landscape of physical distancing, may we remember to stay connected to each other as sisters and brothers in Christ. I am here—we are here - for you at FPC in any way we can. Please do not hesitate to reach out! Each Wednesday I will send out a quick family fun activity to do since we are not meeting at the church. This week's activity is focused on worry and is meant for EVERYONE in the family. All you need is a foot length piece of rope or yarn for each person. This is something that I will prayerfully use each day as I will pray for each of my Kingdom Kids and Crossing Zone kids by name. I miss them and love them. I cannot wait until we are back together! Next Wednesday we will begin again the journey towards the cross. I thought this week should be a quick object lesson as everyone is trying to figure out how to do school at home and worry is an appropriate subject. This is quick and easy. Please try and find some time to do this WITH your kids. [Download this week's activity here ...](#)

In His Precious Name,
Holly

Way of the Week

13. OPEN DOORS FOR OTHERS TO LEAD. Encourage others to step into leadership by sharing responsibilities and mentoring. Let go of the jobs you've always done and allow new leaders to emerge. Remember that our youth and young adults are not solely the future of our church but are vitally important for our present.

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**Connect. Devote.
Serve. Worship.**

ADVISORY Sunday, March 22

Due to [COVID-19](#) health concerns, there will be one **9:30 a.m.** worship service which will be streamed LIVE from the sanctuary. To view, log onto www.fpcmoorestown.org on your phone, computer or tablet. The service is also posted later in the week to our website.

All events and activities have been CANCELLED through March 31. The office is CLOSED and staff is working from home.

"Connections" is published weekly for Sunday worship and every two weeks in the summer. Please submit information by noon Tuesdays to: Editor Jan Martin
jmartin@fpcmoorestown.org
856-235-1688, Ext. 133

Are you receiving our Friday e-blast with announcements, FPC news and upcoming events? If not, contact the [church office](#).



Connections



First Presbyterian Church of Moorestown

March 22-29, 2020

Way of the Week

13. OPEN DOORS FOR OTHERS TO LEAD. Encourage others to step into leadership by sharing responsibilities and mentoring. Let go of the jobs you've always done and allow new leaders to emerge. Remember that our youth and young adults are not solely the future of our church but are vitally important for our present.

Read: Matthew 28: 19-20; Matthew 9: 37-38; 1 Timothy 4: 12

GRACE NOTES

THINGS HAVE BEEN FLIPPED upside down with COVID-19 precautions and during change we tend to hold onto things so that we can feel some semblance of control. Well, that's not the way of someone who follows Christ. We are not called to a life of comfort, we are called to a full life.

I was recently talking with some people about how capable (or arrogant, if you prefer) I am and how I manage to get everything done that I need to, and it tends to get done well. Now I don't feel like I'm alone in the way I view myself. If we are honest, our church is full of extremely capable people living very efficient, successful lives, but again, that is not the way of a Christ follower. In the beginning we see the most capable and successful person ever (God) divvy up responsibilities and giving other people (who fail) a chance to be part of something great. Here is the terrifying part. That is the model we are supposed to follow. Those who feel capable and best suited for every task (here's my ego again) need to hand over the reigns. We need to share our responsibilities with others because of a two-fold blessing. We share responsibilities then our work load gets lighter, and secondly others get the joy of being part of something. It is time to pass the torch.

Now don't be like me and hold onto things because you think someone would fail. That doesn't matter. God doesn't care about failure so neither should we. God gives opportunities for success, so should we. If you've been doing something for awhile, hand over the reigns, but don't walk away. Offer advice when it's asked for. Be patient as people grow into new opportunities. Be ok with failure. One person's screw up isn't going to derail God's plan.

Here's some practical thoughts considering our current COVID-19 condition. *Small group leaders:* start a group chat and let everyone chime in, don't lead, facilitate. *Parents:* allow your child to take ownership of their learning, do not micromanage or snowplow, but do encourage. *Bosses/Managers:* ask the people under you to tackle those projects that you just never get around to and let them do their thing. Those can all be pretty terrifying things to do because we have to let go of control and be ok with failure, but hey, who should we trust more, ourselves or God? And if you are not at that point in your faith, no shame, but look at it this way. Everyone is in uncharted waters so you might as well try something new.

[Dave Fauvell](#), Interim Youth Director

Coronavirus Update

In compliance with state and local government mandates related to [COVID-19](#), our campus will remain closed until further notice. We plan to worship by live stream for the remaining Sundays in March. Unfortunately, there is no accurate timetable for when we will be able to gather again. However, we'll be ready to celebrate when that day comes. For the short term, life, ministry and missions at FPC Moorestown will continue in this new rhythm. **Until further notice, please do not enter the building.** Only staff and a handful of volunteers who are assisting with worship are allowed in the building. We need to keep our building as clean and germ-free as possible for the virtual service. Thank you!

Pastor Spencer has sent special eblasts to church members regarding our response to the COVID-19 virus. [Read the recent communication on our web site.](#)

Holy Week Schedule

- ♦ **April 5:** Palm Sunday (no Sunday School, Lent Groups meet)
- ♦ **April 9:** Maundy Thursday (7:30 pm, Miller Commons)
- ♦ **April 10:** Good Friday Tenebrae (7:30 pm, Sanctuary)
- ♦ **April 12:** Easter Worship
6:30 a.m. Sunrise
8:30 a.m. Traditional
9:30 a.m. Contemporary
11:00 a.m. Traditional

Please post pictures on social media of you and your family worshipping with the live stream. What a fun way to connect from afar!



Deacons Food Drive

The Deacons kicked off March with a Food Drive to provide much needed food for the Ministerium Food Pantry at St. Matthew. Thank you for your generous donations! The food we received was rushed down to the food pantry last week and will provide critical food for those who are at risk in the best of times, and much more so now.

Deacons Food Baskets

The Deacons switched gears quickly for their Easter Food Baskets, which are vital to families facing food shortages. Instead of purchasing the food which would need to be packed and delivered, the Deacons mailed grocery gift cards to the food basket recipients. Many thanks to Deacons Helen Dominy, Susan Horn and their fantastic team.



Lenten Book Study

Our *Not a Fan* Lenten book study groups are getting creative with ways to "meet" while maintaining physical distancing and recommendations of public health officials. We're learning all about Zoom videoconferencing, Google Hangouts, FaceTime, Skype and conference calls. For questions contact Kelly LePenske at (206) 484-6758 cell/text or klepenske@fpcmoorestown.org.

Staff Is Working Remotely

Our church staff is working at home and available by phone, email or text. Messages are being retrieved from the church office during the week. Work emails for staff members are their first initial and last name@fpcmoorestown.org (example: jmartin@fpcmoorestown.org).

Worship 9:30 a.m. via Live Stream



Tune in! We will continue to host a live worship service at **9:30 a.m. Sunday morning** via live stream. You can access the service from your computer, phone or tablet at fpcmoorestown.org/live-stream. There is an [interactive worship guide](#) you can download to help you follow the service. This bulletin can be found on the weekly Friday E-blast or on our homepage.



Pastor's Note

Pastor Spencer is on study leave March 16-23, while he safely works remotely. For pastoral care concerns, please contact [Kelly LePenske](#) or [Jan Martin](#) in the church office at (856) 235-1688.

Facility Facelift

On March 17-18, beautiful new carpeting was installed in the hallways from the office to the sanctuary, Narthex and pulpit replacing the well worn carpet. It looks amazing! The monitors in the narthex have been lowered to an easier height and all the loose wires and connections have been safely hidden. Nice!



Church Center App

Download the free "Church Center" mobile app to check-in to FPC Moorestown events, find or join a group, give online, register for events and contact the church. Visit your App Store (Apple) or Google Play Store (Android), look for the Church Center app and get connected.

Rummage Sale Canceled

After much prayer and consideration, PW coordinators decided to postpone the April 1-2 Rummage Sale. [Please see the complete letter](#) on our web site.

**March Session Meeting
Tuesday, March 24 ~ 7 p.m.**
(See your email from Elder Mike Baker for directions for a videoconference)

PW Birthday Offering

PW Circle Members and Friends: The Birthday offering will be collected in Circles during the month of March. Traditionally, an amount is given commensurate with one's birthday, ranging from 10 cents to \$1 per year. (Shy ladies may donate any amount). If you miss the meeting or do not belong to a Circle, please send your check to the office with "PW Birthday Offering" on the memo line. A list of 2020 recipients is on the PW bulletin board. Questions? Contact Susan Masiko at 856-630-3253 or susan.masiko@comcast.net.

Save The Date

Saturday, May 2

8:45 am-Noon

(8:30 am Continental Breakfast)

[Part 2: Discipleship Training](#)

Ed and Debby Gross

REGISTER ONLINE

If you missed the first Disciple Making session, you can watch it on our live stream. Visit www.fpcmoorestown.org.

Are you getting the Friday eblast? Contact Jan Martin to sign up (cell 630-750-7622)

*Fear not
for I am
with you*

April Couples Retreat "Marriage and Discipleship" ON HOLD

Due to safety and health concerns amidst the COVID-19 virus, the April 17-19 Couples Retreat at the Inn of Cape May is currently ON HOLD.

Spring Prayer Retreat June 16-19

Holy Cross Monastery
West Park, New York
"Praying the Lord's Prayer"
Learn more/register at
www.fpcmoorestown.org

Alpha Provides Opportunity to Explore Your Faith ON HOLD

Who is Jesus? Why and how should I read the Bible? Who is the Holy Spirit? Explore questions like these at ALPHA, a 10-week/14 Lesson course open to the community. Sessions are held on Wednesday evenings and begin with a dinner at 6:00 pm, followed by a DVD video at 6:45 pm, and small group discussion. The Spring series begins **April 15** and runs through June, including a weekend retreat at the church. Visit the ALPHA page at www.fpcmoorestown.org (Events) or see leader Jim Cole (jamescole7@comcast.net).